



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Federal Housing Finance Agency

400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219

March 5, 2019

Austin R. Evers
Executive Director
American Oversight
1030 15th Street, NW, Suite B255
Washington, DC 20005
By Electronic Mail: foia@americanoversight.org

RE: Freedom of Information Act

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter responds to your February 14, 2019 request pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, which was received by the Federal Housing Finance Agency's Office of Inspector General (FHFA-OIG) on February 14, 2019. Your request has been assigned the tracking number 2019-FOIA-00007 and seeks the following information:

American Oversight requests that your agency produce the following within twenty business days:

All records reflecting communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations, memoranda or background material for meetings, or handwritten or typed notes taken during meetings) between any political appointees* at your agency and any employee or representative of Ballard Partners, including, but not limited to, any of the following individuals:

- a) Any individual using an email address ending in ballardfl.com,
- b) Brian Ballard,
- c) Sylvester Lukis,
- d) Susan "Susie" Wiles,
- e) Dan McFaul,
- f) Rebecca Benn,
- g) Justin Sayfie,
- h) James "Jamie" Rubin,
- i) Otto Reich,
- j) Raj Shah,
- k) Pam Bondi,
- l) Robert Wexler,
- m) Jose Felix Diaz,
- n) Katherine San Pedro,
- o) Karl Bowers,
- p) Sara Pennington,
- q) Hannah Walters, or
- r) Sara Nuvy.

To be clear, this request includes any memos or one-pagers provided by Ballard Partners to government officials during meetings. (Date Range for Record Search: From 1/20/2017 To 2/14/2019)

FHFA-OIG has conducted a search and has determined that it possesses **0** pages of records responsive to your request.

This is the final decision on your request. You may contact me for any further assistance at foia@fhfaoig.gov. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows: *Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, e-mail at ogis@nara.gov; telephone at 202-741-5770; toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or facsimile at 202-741-5769.*

If you are not satisfied with the response to this request and believe this decision denies your request in whole or in part, you may appeal it in writing within 90 days by writing directly to the FOIA Appeals Officer via electronic mail, mail, delivery service, or facsimile. Your appeal must cite the applicable tracking number(s) for the request(s) you contend to have been denied. Your appeal must include a copy of the request(s) you contend to have been denied, a copy of the decision letter, and a statement of circumstances, reasons, or arguments you believe support disclosure of the requested record(s). Your appeal must also be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal: FHFA-OIG." The electronic mail address is: foia@fhfa.gov. For mail or delivery service, the mailing address is: FOIA Appeals Officer, Federal Housing Finance Agency, 400 7th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20219. The facsimile number is: (202) 649-1073. Your appeal must be postmarked or electronically transmitted within 90 days of the date of the response to your request.

Sincerely,



Sheila Peden
Acting FOIA Officer
Attorney Advisor

From: Easter, Stacy Stacy.Easter@fhfa.gov
Subject: FHFA FOIA No. 2019-FOIA-017
Date: March 26, 2019 at 2:43 PM
To: American Oversight FOIA foia@americanoversight.org
Cc: Easter, Stacy Stacy.Easter@fhfa.gov

SE

From: FOIA@fhfa.gov <FOIA@fhfa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2019 1:57 PM
To: foia@americanoversight.org
Cc: Easter, Stacy <Stacy.Easter@fhfa.gov>
Subject: FHFA FOIA No. 2019-FOIA-017

March 26, 2019

Re: FHFA FOIA No. 2019-FOIA-017

Dear Mr. Evers:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, dated February 14, 2019. Your request was received in the Federal Housing Finance Agency's (FHFA) FOIA office on February 14, 2019, and assigned FHFA FOIA request number 2019-FOIA-017. Your request was processed in accordance with the FOIA (5 U.S.C. § 552) and FHFA's FOIA regulation (12 CFR Part 1202).

You requested the following:

"All records reflecting communications (including email messages, email attachments, calendar invitations, memoranda or background material for meetings, or handwritten or typed notes taken during meetings) between any political appointees* at your agency and any employee or representative of Ballard Partners, including, but not limited to, any of the following individuals: a) Any individual using an email address ending in ballardfl.com, b) Brian Ballard, c) Sylvester Lukis, d) Susan "Susie" Wiles, e) Dan McFaul, f) Rebecca Benn, g) Justin Sayfie, h) James "Jamie" Rubin, i) Otto Reich, j) Raj Shah, k) Pam Bondi, l) Robert Wexler, m) Jose Felix Diaz, n) Katherine San Pedro, o) Karl Bowers, p) Sara Pennington, q) Hannah Walters, or r) Sara Nuvy."

A search of FHFA files and records did not locate any records responsive to your request.

This is the final decision on your FOIA request. If you wish to appeal any aspect of FHFA's decision on your request, you must forward within 90 days:

- A copy of your initial request;
- A copy of this letter; and
- A statement of the circumstances, reasons, or arguments for seeking disclosure of the affected record(s).

The appeal must be sent either electronically by 5pm to foia@fhfa.gov or postmarked within 90 days and mailed to the "FOIA Appeals Officer" at 400 7th Street, SW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20010. The subject line on the envelope and the letter of appeal must be

washington, DC 20219. The subject line, or the envelope and the letter or appeal, must be clearly marked "FOIA Appeal." Please note that all mail sent to FHFA via the United States Postal Service is routed through a national irradiation facility, a process that may delay delivery by approximately two weeks. For any time-sensitive correspondence, please plan accordingly.

Additionally, you may seek dispute resolution services from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration. OGIS can be reached at 8601 Adelphi Road – OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001; by email at ogis@nara.gov; by telephone at 202-741-5770 or toll free at 1-877-684-6448; or by facsimile at 202-741-5769.

Your FOIA request is releasable to the public under subsequent FOIA requests. In responding to these requests, FHFA does not release personal information, such as home or email addresses and home or mobile telephone numbers which are protected from disclosure under FOIA Exemption 6 (5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)).

If you have any questions regarding the processing of your request, please contact me directly at stacy.easter@fhfa.gov.

Sincerely,

Stacy J. Easter
FOIA/Privacy Officer
Office of General Counsel

Confidentiality Notice: The information contained in this e-mail and any attachments may be confidential or privileged under applicable law, or otherwise may be protected from disclosure to anyone other than the intended recipient(s). Any use, distribution, or copying of this e-mail, including any of its contents or attachments by any person other than the intended recipient, or for any purpose other than its intended use, is strictly prohibited. If you believe you have received this e-mail in error: permanently delete the e-mail and any attachments, and do not save, copy, disclose, or rely on any part of the information contained in this e-mail or its attachments. Please call 202-649-3800 if you have questions.